

BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518)237-8643

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. _____
QUAD. _____
SERIES _____
NEG.NO. _____

YOUR NAME: Kathy Howe DATE: Sept. 1994

YOUR ADDRESS: 133 South Fitzhugh Street TELEPHONE: (716)546-7029
Rochester, NY 14608

ORGANIZATION (if any): The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.

* * * * *

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Castle-Meisenzahl Farm (present Pleasant View Farm)
2. COUNTY: Monroe TOWN: Greece
3. STREET LOCATION: 79 Elmgrove Road
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☐ b. private ☒
5. PRESENT OWNER: Pauline M. & Edward I. Sweeting ADDRESS: (same) Rochester, NY 14626
6. USE: Original: residence/farm Present: residence/farm
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐
Interior accessible: Explain private residence

DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☒ (fdn.)* c. brick ☐ d. board and batten ☐
e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☒ (wood) g. stucco ☐ other: *reddish-brown fieldstone foundation is partially pargeted.
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☒
(if known) b. wood frame with light members ☐
c. masonry load bearing walls ☐
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☐ b. good ☒ c. fair ☐ d. deteriorated ☐
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☒ b. moved ☐ if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

(see continuation sheet)

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

"This is a nice complex with the house and the barns. The house looks like it has some modern siding on it. A 'red minus' for the complex." P.Malo.

COLOR CODE

Red minus



14. THREATS TO BUILDING:

- a. none known [X] b. zoning [] c. roads []
d. developers [] e. deterioration []
f. other: _____

15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:

- a. barn [X] (5) b. carriage house [] c. garage [X]
d. privy [] e. shed [] f. greenhouse []
g. shop [] h. gardens []
i. landscape features: man-made pond (1980s)
j. other: milk house, chicken coop, well pump

16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):

- a. open land [X] b. woodland []
c. scattered buildings [X]
d. densely built-up [X](neighborhood) e. commercial []
f. industrial [] g. residential [X]
h. other: Ridgemont Country Club across the street to the east.

17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:

(Indicate if building or structure s in an historic district)

(see continuation sheet)

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

(see continuation sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: c. 1854 - c. 1860

ARCHITECT: not determined

BUILDER: not determined

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

(see continuation sheet)

21. SOURCES:

(see continuation sheet)

22. THEME: Agricultural: Farmhouse and outbuildings.

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11c.

House interior remodelled in 1969. Front stair on the interior removed.

Former woodshed (rear portion of one-story rear wing) converted into living space.

Front, southeast, porch recently screened-in.

Shed-roofed porch at south side was added in early 1900s (per owner).

Many of the windows have been recently replaced with 6/6 and 6/9 double-hung replacement windows with snap-in muntins.

Original front entrance in the south bay of the front-gabled, east facade replaced by a double-hung window.

Two chimneys added at west elevation.

17. The Castle-Meisenzahl Farm is located on a 10 acre lot on the west side of Elmgrove Road, across the street from Ridgemont Country Club, in the southwest quadrant of the town. Several agricultural outbuildings of various dates of construction are located south and west of the house. A recently constructed man-made pond is situated northwest of a modern pole barn. The front lawn features a mature horse chestnut tree. An old well pump is located south of the house. Pastures for horses are located on the south and west part of the property. The front property line along the south pasture features a historic stone wall. About 100 acres of this farm were sold to Monroe County in 1969 for parkland which now borders the current 10-acre parcel to the west and south.

18. Two-story, gable-front-and-wing, frame farmhouse (c. 1854-60) with one-story, gable-roofed rear wing. The front-gabled block is three-bays-wide by two-bays-deep. The side-gabled wing is two-bays-wide by two-bays-deep. The house stands on a fieldstone foundation. Exterior walls which are now clad in wood shingles were originally clad with wood clapboard. Fenestration is regular and symmetrical with six-over-six and six-over-nine, double-hung windows, many of which are replacement sash with snap-in muntins. The roof has a wide overhang.

18. continued

A one-story porch is located in the front, southeast corner. Although this porch has recently been screened-in it retains the original Italianate style chamfered posts. Two original entrances lead out onto this porch on the east and south walls. An original door at the south end of the main block's facade has been removed and replaced by a double-hung window.

The west end of the rear wing was originally used as a woodshed. The original vertical plank door is still intact on the south elevation of this wing. The south porch was added to the rear wing in the early 1900s. Concrete steps lead up to the kitchen entrance at the south elevation of the rear wing.

In addition to the historic farmhouse, the property is distinguished for its fine collection of agricultural outbuildings including:

Contributing gable-roofed frame barns (ca. 1854-60) located south of the house. These two, small attached barns are of heavy post and beam construction and stand on stone foundations. The north barn is taller than the south barn. The walls of both barns are vertical tongue-and-groove. The north elevation of the north barn features a sliding track door, a hinged hayloft door, and six-over-six, double-hung wood window above. The upper part of the north barn was once used as a corn crib as shown by the open space between the vertical boards on the upper floor. The Meisenzahls used these barns for young cattle stock and for mares and their foals.

Contributing gambrel-roofed barn (late 1800s-early 1900s) located south of the house. This barn is of post and beam construction (per owner) with vertical tongue-and-groove walls. It stands on a stone foundation. Located in front of the sliding doors on the north elevation are large stone slabs. The Meisenzahls used this barn for stabling their draft horses. The interior retains six of the original stalls and a former harness area.

18. continued

Contributing gambrel-roofed barn (late 1800s-early 1900s) with additions located west of the house. This barn was moved here from 159 Elmgrove Road in the late 1950s to replace the two original gambrel-roofed barns once located on this site that were destroyed by fire in 1946. The present barn was moved onto part of the original foundation of the previous barns. It was used by the Meisenzahls as a cow barn. Attached to the north side of this barn is a non-contributing shed-roofed frame wing (built late 1970s) which was built onto part of the original stone foundation as well. Attached to the east elevation of this addition is a non-contributing gable-roofed frame shed -- originally a corn crib -- with slightly tapered sides which was moved here from 3349 Ridge Road West in the 1950s. This structure was used by the Meisenzahls for stabling cows.

Contributing milk house (early- to mid-1900s) located west of the house. The milk house is attached to the east end of the barn additions described above. This structure was once located further west about where the chicken coop is today. The milk house is clad with wood clapboards and has a sliding louvered door on the east end.

Contributing garage (former ice house, early- to mid-1900s) located west of the house. This gable-roofed frame building was originally smaller in size and used as an ice house. It was later enlarged into a garage.

Contributing chicken coop (early- to mid-1900s) located west of the pole barn. The chicken coop is a shed-roofed frame structure.

Non-contributing pole barn (1983) located west of the house. This modern, gable-roofed pole barn is used as a riding arena.

20. The Castle-Meisenzahl Farm is architecturally significant in the town of Greece as an outstanding historic farm property with the original farmhouse (built c. 1854-60), several agricultural outbuildings, and a portion of the original acreage intact. It is also historically significant for its association

20. continued

with the agricultural heritage of Greece. The property is important in that it has been in continuous use as a farm throughout its history and has remained in the ownership of the Meisenzahl family since 1913. The property is presently used as a horse farm.

The ell-plan, gable-roofed house is representative of the typical vernacular farmhouse built in Greece during the mid-nineteenth century. Though the house is vernacular in form its chamfered porch posts and roof overhang were inspired by the Italianate style.

Pauline Meisenzahl Sweeting, present owner, dates the house from 1854. However, a building does not appear on this site on the 1858 county map. This would suggest that the house may have been built after 1858. The building first appears on the 1872 county map on lot 141 with the name E.S. Castle. E.S. Castle died in Greece on April 23, 1883. The 1902 county map shows the property as a 107.88 acre parcel owned by Jas. B. Castle. According to Mrs. Sweeting, her grandfather, George Meisenzahl, purchased the farm from Ben Castle in 1913.

George Meisenzahl established a dairy farm on this property. The Meisenzahl family originally farmed their fields using Belgian draft horses. George's son, Eugene Meisenzahl, owned the property beginning in 1936 and continued to operate it as a dairy farm. The farm later became the property of Eugene's daughter, Pauline Meisenzahl Sweeting, and her husband Edward Sweeting in 1987.

The survival of the historic agricultural outbuildings greatly contributes to the integrity of the setting. The earliest outbuildings on the property appear to be the small, post and beam, gable-roofed barns south of the house. These are believed to date from the same era as the house. They were used for young cattle stock and for mares in foal. The upper story of the north barn was also once used as a corn crib.

The gambrel-roofed barn located west of the gable-roofed barns was used to stable the Meisenzahls draft horses and included a harness room. Six of the original horse stalls remain in this contributing structure. By the late nineteenth century gambrel-roofed barns became the dominant barn type on most farms. The

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gambrel roof provided greater storage space and could accommodate larger hay crops and farm machinery.

Two of the Meisenzahls original gambrel-roofed barns were destroyed by fire in 1946. The current gambrel barn, west of the house, was moved here from a farm at 159 Elmgrove Road in the late 1950s and used by the Meisenzahls as a cow barn. Other contributing outbuildings on the property include the milk house, chicken coop, and garage (former ice house). The original stone wall which encloses the front pasture also contributes to the integrity of the setting.

According to Mrs. Sweeting, the lawn was once planted with Dutch elms which were destroyed by the Dutch Elm disease. The large horse chestnut tree in the front yard is a significant natural feature of the property.

Agricultural structures are quickly vanishing from the town's landscape, victims of new development, deterioration, abandonment, or fire. Those agricultural complexes which have survived and are still in agricultural use, such as the Castle-Meisenzahl Farm, are rare and thus highly significant historic resources. The farmhouse and the agricultural support structures are important visual reminders of the town's agricultural heritage.

21.

Assessment Records. Assessment Office, Town of Greece, NY.

Beers, F.W. *Atlas of Monroe County, New York*. New York: F.W. Beers & Co., 1872.

Brown, P.J. *Gillette's Map of Monroe County, New York*. Philadelphia: Gillette, 1858.

Historic photograph of 79 Elmgrove Road. Pauline Meisenzahl Sweeting.

Obituary for E.S. Castle, *Rochester Union & Advertiser*, 23 April 1883, 3-6.

Interview with Pauline Meisenzahl Sweeting, July 1994.

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21. continued

Map of Monroe County, N.Y. Philadelphia. PA: G.M. Hopkins,
1924.

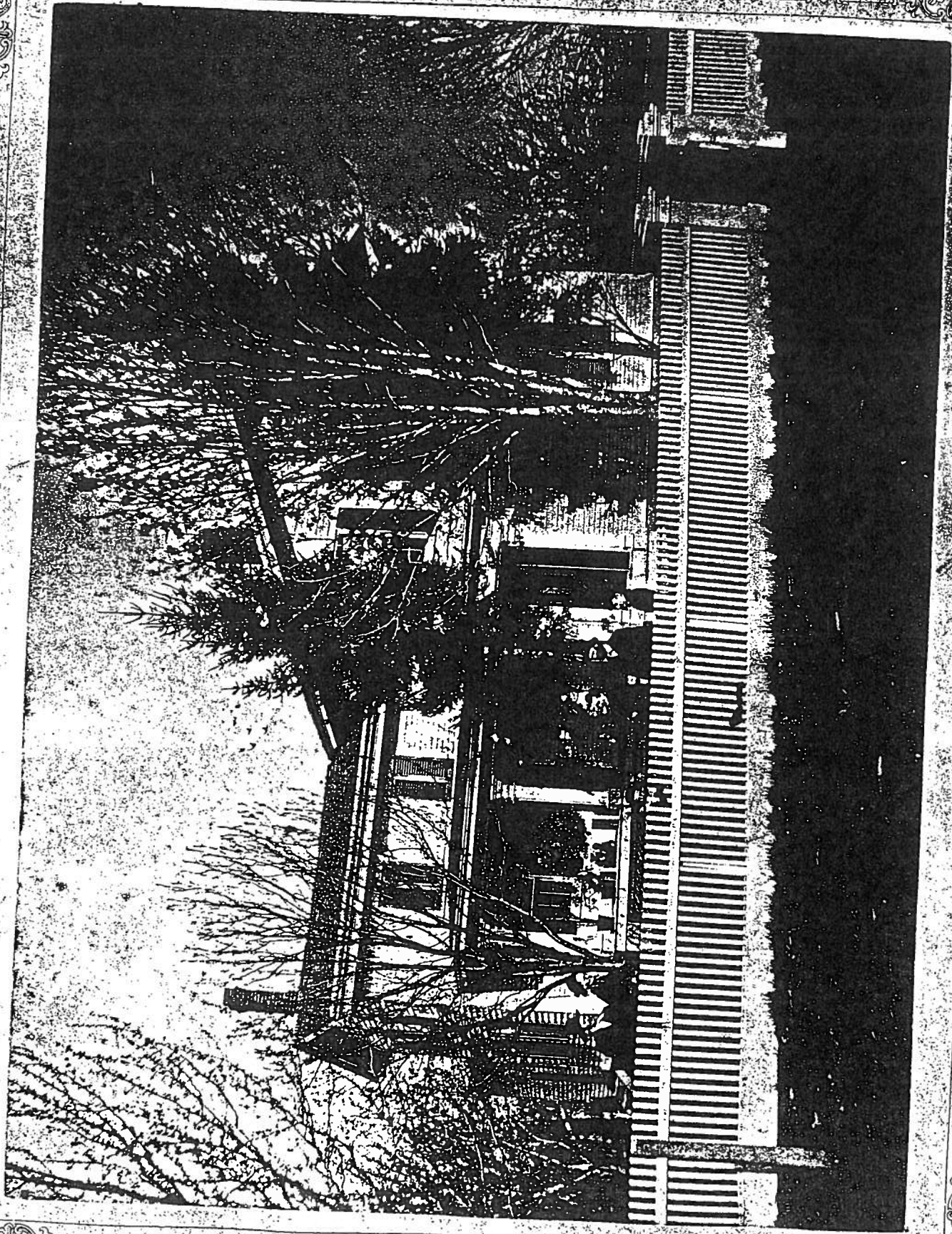
Plat Book of Monroe County, New York. Philadelphia, PA: J.M.
Lathrop & Co., 1902.

Rochester Suburban Directory of the Year 1930. Rochester, NY:
Sampson & Murdock Co., 1930.

Rochester Suburban Directory for the Year 1938. Rochester, NY:
Sampson & Murdock Co., 1937.

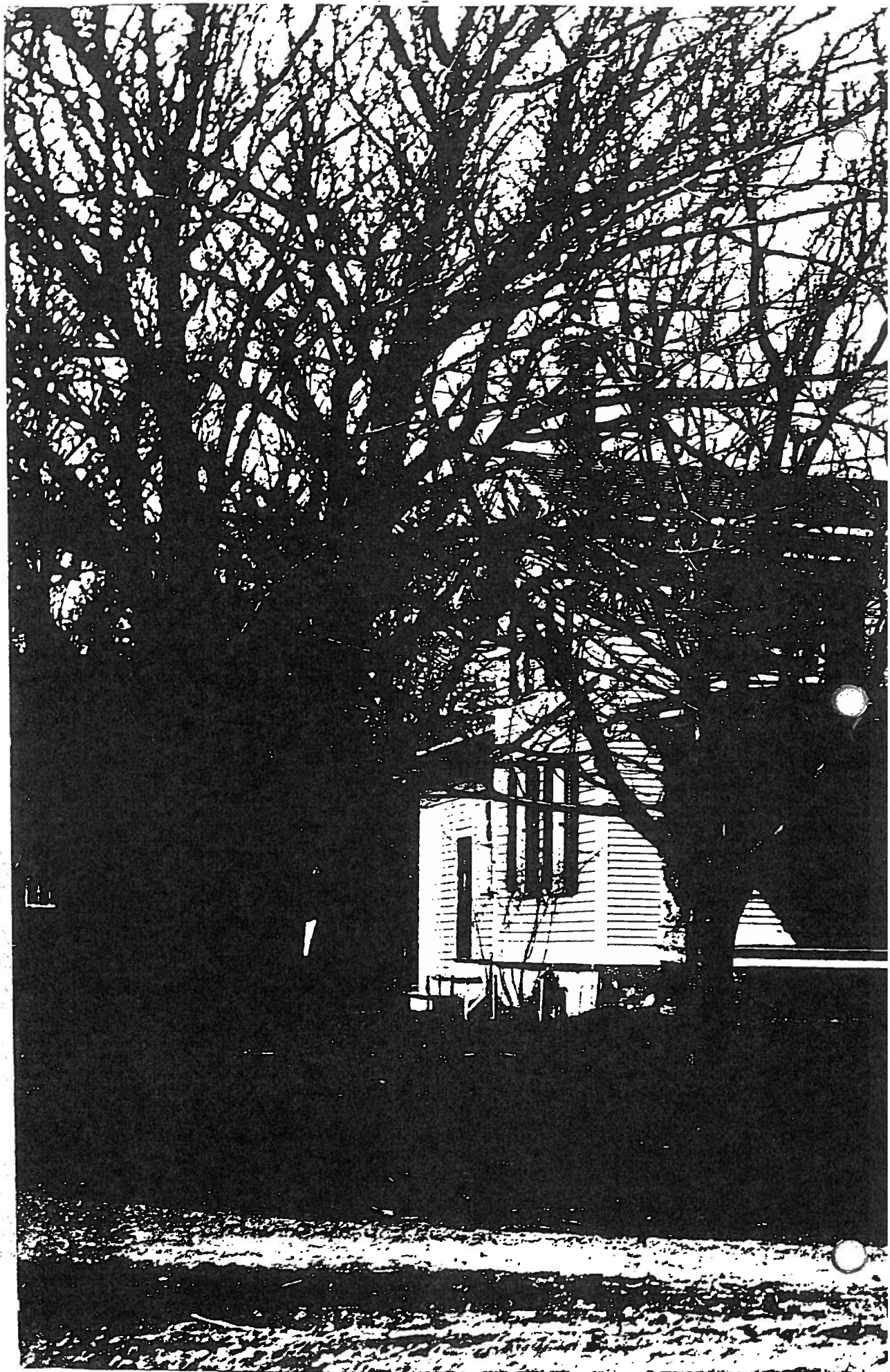
Wagner's Complete Survey of Monroe County, New York.
Cincinnati, Ohio: A.C. Wagner Co., 1928.

Castle-Meisenzahl Farm, 79 Elmgrove: taken about 1875 with
members of Castle family shown.



Union View Co., 110 State Street, Rochester, N. Y.

1045



T. house in the early 1900's - when owned

79 Ellingrove Rd. Castle-Melsenham Farm

-taken early 1900s.



the Mersmanns, H. Mersmanns







